

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:TWSEELYE:NB

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296385

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, US, BC, RH

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT KHAMA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY
TO PRESIDENT KHAMA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WAS MOST CONCERNED
WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT YOUR RECENT OPERATION BUT AM
PLEASED TO LEARN THAT IT WAS SUCCESSFUL AND THAT YOU ARE
WELL ON THE WAY TO FULL RECOVERY.

3. "I WOULD NOT BOTHER YOU IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES EXCEPT
THAT I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE GROWING SENSE OF
UNREALITY THAT THREATENS THE SUCCESS OF THE GENEVA CON-
FERENCE.

4. "THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS AND SOME OF THE OBSERVERS
(NOT INCLUDING YOUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE, I SHOULD ADD) HAVE
BEEN PRESSING FOR SOLUTIONS THAT THE RHODESIAN WHITES WILL
NEVER ACCEPT. SOME ACT AS IF THEY CAME NOT TO NEGOTIATE AN
AGREEMENT BUT TO ENFORCE AN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER BY
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SMITH LEADING TO IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE.

5. "AS YOU KNOW, THE BASIC APPROACH ON GETTING A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT WAS DISCUSSED BY SEVERAL DIFFERENT MISSIONS BEFORE I CAME OUT TO AFRICA IN SEPTEMBER, AND NOBODY EVER SUGGESTED AN IMMEDIATE SHIFT TO MAJORITY RULE. THE IDEA OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF POWER SHARING IN A TWO-TIER SYSTEM WAS NEVER CHALLENGED. WITHOUT THESE BASIC ELEMENTS WE COULD NEVER HAVE WON SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION IN GETTING SMITH TO ACCEPT THE GOAL OF MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS.

6. "SOME OF THE NATIONALISTS ARE ASKING THE BRITISH TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES IN RHODESIA THAT THEY HAVE NEVER HAD BEFORE AND FOR WHICH THEY LACK THE AUTHORITY TO BACK UP. THE BRITISH HAVE PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT BUT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE BRITISH ROLE CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE OF A BASIC AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES THEMSELVES WHICH DEFINES IN CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS TERMS THE POWERS THAT EACH WILL ADDRESS IN AN INTERIM PERIOD. THE BRITISH CANNOT BE USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR A RHODESIAN PRESENCE IN INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS.

7. "IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS NOT TO FAIL, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE NATIONALISTS BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO NEGOTIATE A SHARING OF POWER WITH THE RHODESIAN WHITES FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO HELP THE NATIONALISTS GROUP SEE THIS VITAL CONSIDERATION. WITHOUT THIS, THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS FOR GENEVA ARE SLIM. WE CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO INFLUENCE THE RHODESIAN WHITES TO BE REASONABLE ON THEIR SIDE, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH THEY CANNOT BE PUSHED UNDER ALMOST ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

8. "I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. WARMEST REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER." END TEXT KISSINGER

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